



# WESTERN EDGE

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The Western Oregon University Magazine

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## Message from the editor



You may have noticed from the cover of this issue's *Western Edge*, that some changes are afoot. Our new look celebrates embracing change.

Taking our cue from WOU's new strategic plan, *Forward Together*, we created an overarching theme for the university: Together We Succeed. The strategic plan focuses on five priority areas (see bulleted list at far right), and are highlighted by "taglines" for each of these: Together We Achieve, Together We Learn, Together We Engage, Together We Lead and Together We Thrive.

The stories in this issue highlight each of these priorities in unique ways. We hope you'll agree.

## Special thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee

Laurie Burton, Mathematics Department faculty  
Adry Clark, Service Learning & Career Development director

Betty Crawford, Alumni Board member

Paul Disney, Business & Economics Division faculty

David Foster, Psychology Department faculty

Rex Fuller, WOU president

Camila Gabaldon, Library & Media Services faculty

Corbin Garner '17, WOU student

Megan Habermann, Student Engagement assistant director

Mark Henkels, Political Science Department faculty

Ivan Hurtado '07, WOU Board of Trustees

Cecelia Koontz, WOU Board of Trustees

Paul Kylo '79, WOU Foundation Board member

Melanie Landon-Hays, Teacher Education Division faculty

Randi Lydum '90, '93, Athletic Compliance director

Dave McDonald, associate provost

Alma Pacheco (*in memoriam*), WOU student

Peggy Pederson, Health & Exercise Science Division faculty

Adele Schepige, Teacher Education Division faculty

Chris Solario '05, Student Enrichment Program assistant director

Linda Stonecipher, Graduate Programs director

Dan Tankersley, Art Department faculty

Ella Taylor, The Research Institute director

Steve Taylor, Earth & Physical Sciences Department faculty

Shelby Worthing, WOU student

Ginny Lang, facilitator

# FORWARD TOG

**B**ETWEEN APRIL 2016 and January 2017, the 25 members of the Strategic Planning Committee worked to update the university's mission, vision and values statement. The committee formulated, after many drafts and with input from hundreds

of stakeholders, a comprehensive strategic plan called *Forward Together*. It will inform university goals and efforts through 2023. The Board of Trustees approved the plan Jan. 25.

The action items are based on the new WOU mission statement:



## Collaborative effort on campus

During all stages of the strategic planning process, the WOU community was invited to a number of events where it could offer feedback on the draft plan. Attendees shared thoughts about the overall concepts, word choice and university taglines that were born out of the plan. With each set of inputs, modifications were made as needed, and the final result gradually emerged. Because of the thoughtful insights from constituents such as students, staff members, faculty and community members, the complete document is reflective of WOU's values and voices.

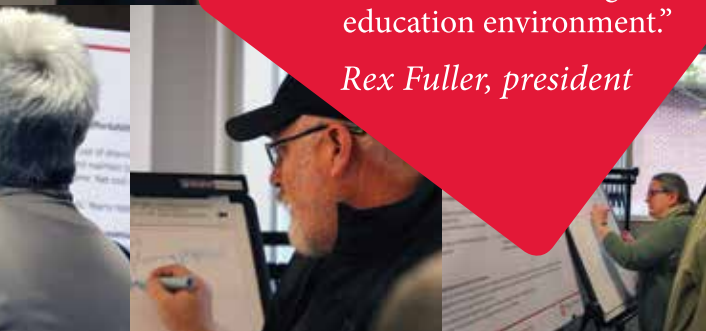


# ETHER 2017-23

“Western Oregon University creates lasting opportunities for student success through transformative education and personalized support.”

Five institutional priorities were established and will drive resource allocation in the future:

- **Student Success:** Promote student success, learning and graduation through personalized support in a student-centered education community.
- **Academic Excellence:** Promote academic excellence in an engaged, student-focused learning environment.
- **Community Engagement:** Create meaningful opportunities for lasting partnerships with local communities and regional and global organizations.
- **Accountability:** Promote teamwork and transparency in budgeting, decision-making and the stewardship of resources.
- **Sustainability and Stewardship:** Promote effective university stewardship of educational, environmental, financial, human and technological resources.



“Our plan is expected to be dynamic and responsive to changing conditions in the higher education environment.”

*Rex Fuller, president*

# Gerontology program comes of age



**W**HEN ASKED TO name Western Oregon University programs that offer career-centered degrees, most students and alumni will point to teaching, nursing, criminal justice or American Sign Language. But there's a new-ish kid in town, and it caters to the older crowd: gerontology.

WOU's Gerontology program sprang into life in 2010, and at first, only a minor was available. A year later, Professor Rob Winningham and a supporting cast expanded the offerings to cater to students seeking a major in the field. In 2012, a trio of post-baccalaureate students were the first to graduate from the program.

"Although Western has traditionally been a teacher education school, in the past few years the focus seems to have been expanded to include health care," said Winningham, who teaches psychology and gerontology and is currently serving as interim

dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"We saw an opportunity to fill a niche for students who might be considering nursing or other health care fields. Gerontology is a good base of knowledge for them to have."

Gerontology is different from geriatrics in that geriatrics is more about the health-based aspect of

**"In our (Gerontology) courses, we teach all the best practices, from management to accounting and finance."**

*Dr. Rob Winningham*

getting older. Because Gerontology is a behavioral science, students are focused on the psychological, biological and social aspects of aging and elder populations.

In the hands of Winningham, Professor Margaret Manoogian and then-Instructor David Haber,

the Gerontology program at WOU has grown in five short years to be among the best programs in the country. Last fall, GreatValueColleges.net ranked WOU's program at No. 11 in the nation, largely thanks to its status as the only bachelor's degree in Gerontology offered in the state. Other Oregon universities offer minors or graduate programs in the field.

The number of Gerontology graduates coming out of WOU is heartening to Winningham, who long has been frustrated by what he sees as the lack of training for managers and support staff at assisted living communities and other places where the clientele is older.

"It seemed like, in retirement communities, it was haphazard who was becoming executive directors, even if they didn't have a lot of training or experience in gerontology," he said. "In our courses, we teach all the best



practices, from management to accounting and finance.”

That curriculum flexibility was an option because the program was built largely from scratch. Winningham and his colleagues looked first at other universities’ Gerontology programs for inspiration and fundamentals. In terms of staffing, Winningham initially didn’t have the option to hire new faculty members, so they used the resources already in place at WOU. The Psychology Division (now known as the Behavioral Sciences Division) was a natural fit as several courses included instruction specific to aging populations. Winningham—and eventually Manoogian and Haber—planned the coursework with the end goal of employment in mind, and a strenuous work-experience requirement was added.

“Gerontology is an applied major,” Manoogian explained. “Because behavioral science is a part of the liberal arts, Gerontology is multidisciplinary and broad in some ways. But the two required practicums really set Western’s program apart as far as being service heavy.”

The first practicum helps students fine-tune their job-related interests. Winningham said the program often directly targets positions for practicums that align with students’ interests and career goals.

“Sometimes, after the first practicum, students will discover that a particular focus isn’t right for them after all,” Manoogian said. “There are a few who even decide Gerontology isn’t for them. On the other hand, the students who thrive in their first practicum are more dedicated to the field than ever, and

as they progress through college. They have the advantage of being ready to rise up the management ladder upon graduation rather than starting at the bottom.

“Ten years ago, most facilities were being run by people with no formal education in the social and psychological needs of aging residents,” Winningham said. “Now, I feel like that’s changing—at least regionally—because more of our graduates are out in the world.”

Manoogian estimates the department has yielded 70 graduates during its run, with 30 to 40 students currently studying the field. Winningham said several WOU Gerontology alums are now managers and leaders with hiring authority, and they are seeking out current students as candidates for jobs, internships or practicums.

“They know how well-trained our students are because they went through the program themselves,” Winningham said. “We are working hard to foster a reputation for excellence. Our program is as good as any other in the country.”

A huge part of the U.S. population—the baby boom generation—is reaching its elder years, so demand for trained and experienced care workers is on the rise. Manoogian said WOU students go on to careers in adult foster care, counseling, casework, and, after graduate school, occupational therapy or social work.

“The personality of our program is, in part, long-term care,” Winningham said. “Programs at other schools might have more of a sociology or social work focus. We want to have graduates who are ready to go out and work in the field, so we focus on practical skills and experience in the industry.”



Learn more about the program at [wou.edu/gerontology](http://wou.edu/gerontology).



*Professor Margaret Manoogian (left) teaches a class at the beginning of spring term. (Above) Students discuss issues in class around the dying process.*

Manoogian, who is now the head of the Gerontology Department, was responsible for creating the program’s practicum. The tough, two-part process allows students to get hands-on experience in the field.

they are really enthusiastic going into the second round.”

In fact, Winningham estimates, about a third of the students enrolled in the Gerontology program are already working in the industry

# Perseverance

**T**YRELL WILLIAMS LEFT WOU in 2015 to join the NFL, but his presence still is felt in multiple corners of the campus. The wide receiver for the now-Los Angeles Chargers remains in contact with his former trainer, Cori Metzgar, and has a few former teammates, who now are coaches at WOU, on speed dial.

The Turner native is still on track to graduate from WOU, and he's not shy about his love for his alma mater. He's given WOU plenty of shout-outs on social media and often mentions the university in interviews.

"I loved it at WOU," he said during a phone interview in late January. "All the teachers get to know you personally and they help you out a lot. They made a big difference in helping me do well."

These days, Williams is getting attention from sports reporters instead of college professors. His on-field performance during his second year with the Chargers turned heads and earned him some new fans. With 69 receptions for 1,059 yards and seven touchdowns to his credit last season, Williams is just the 15th Charger to surpass the thousand-yard mark in a season. Still, he says he's not looking past the next season, which will be the final year of his current three-year contract.

"I just want to play football," he insists. "I don't know what's going to happen, but it took me a while to get here, and I just want to enjoy it as long as I can."

It was a long road to the pros. Williams was a three-sport athlete at Cascade High School before joining his brother, RJ, on the WOU football team. He majored in exercise science and minored in sports leadership, loading up on courses during winter and spring terms to make up for taking fewer credits in the fall. He also ran for the WOU track team, specializing in the 200 meter sprint.

"When he started, he was so skinny," said Director of Sports Performance



Photo courtesy of the NFL.

"I loved it at WOU. All the teachers get to know you personally and help you out a lot. They made a big difference in helping me do well."

*Tyrell Williams*





# ce propels Williams to next level

Metzgar, who came to WOU in 2011. “I knew he had talent, but I didn’t know how much because he was so quiet. RJ was more outspoken while Tyrell just did his thing. I didn’t even know they were brothers the first year.”

Williams’ time at WOU was plagued with injuries. Metzgar said he rarely was able to do the same workouts as the rest of the football team because he was usually rehabbing after injury or surgery. Still, he didn’t give up, she said.

“It was frustrating for him,” she said. “He would just get healed and then get injured again. But during his junior year he started buckling down, getting stronger to help prevent more problems.”

In fact, he was injured when he tried out for the NFL at an event

**“He has talent and the right body for the NFL. Plus he’s just a great person – humble and respectful with an even temperament.”**

**Cori Metzgar**

called Pro Day. (See photo at far right for WOU’s newest Pro Day hopeful, Andy Avgi ’16.) He had to travel to Oregon State University in order to try out for pro scouts because there is no Pro Day in small towns like Monmouth. Despite not being 100 percent healthy, Williams’ Pro Day performance stood out among the roughly two dozen candidates, Metzgar said. He blew away the competition in agility tests such as the vertical leap and the long jump and shone in the 40 meter sprint.

“It was a proud day for WOU football,” said Metzgar, who attended the Pro Day with Williams and joined him in the warmup area before the

tests. “Pro Day showed that he was special.”

Williams went undrafted in 2015 but was signed as a free agent by the then-San Diego Chargers. He moved between the practice squad and the active roster, playing mostly on special teams. Finally, at the end of his rookie year, he got a chance at wide receiver. In the final regular-season game against the Denver Broncos, he caught an 80-yard pass for a touchdown. It was smoother sailing from there, as his sophomore season proved.

Many people at WOU knew he would go on to great things in professional sports. After all, he’d received first-team all-GNAC honors three times, set a school record with 165 catches for 2,792 yards and 21 touchdowns over four years and took the top spot in the 200 meters at the 2014 GNAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

“He worked his (butt) off,” said Metzgar, who received a text from Williams on the day he made the Chargers’ roster, thanking her for her support and training. “He has talent and the right body for the NFL. Plus he’s just a great person—humble and respectful with an even temperament.”

Williams credits part of his success to the fact that he’s always played with a chip on his shoulder. When he was in high school, he didn’t get a lot of attention from college recruiters despite his strong performances on the field. So he followed his brother to WOU—a mid-sized college that was close to home. Then, he couldn’t get any traction from NFL teams even after he’d made an impressive mark at WOU.

He declared for the draft, but his name wasn’t called. Still, he made the most of his opportunity with

the Chargers, putting in the work to move from the practice squad to the 53-man roster and then fighting for a breakout second year.

“There will always be a lot of stuff I have to work on,” he said. “That won’t ever change, no matter how many years I go.”

He recently was one of five finalists for the VIZIO Top Value Performer, which goes to the NFL player who voters believe provides the biggest bang for their relatively small paycheck. Williams’ first contract as a professional player is worth \$1.575 million.

None of it would have been possible if Williams hadn’t found his stride as a WOU Wolf. His 160-pound frame wasn’t the only thing that changed at WOU and in the years since.

“He’s a beast,” Metzgar said about the now-6-foot-4, 205 pound athlete. “It’s not just his size. It’s his perseverance and focus. His self-confidence has grown immensely. I think he’s really a credit to WOU and what we do here.”



Get your WOU football tickets at [wouwolves.com](http://wouwolves.com).



**#Pro Wolves hopeful**  
**Andy Avgi**  
‘16 (left) attended NFL Pro Day this year.



# Versatility key to alu

**K**ATHIE MOLDER COLLINS '87 says she wears eight hats in her role as executive director of the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery (TVCRN), but in reality, it's probably many more.

The center in the far reaches of Oregon currently serves more than 50 children ages 18 months to 5 years, so Collins is always on the run. She ticks off the tasks she completes as needed in addition to her regular duties: classroom assistant, cook, bus driver, human resources specialist, handyman, janitor, interviewer and fundraiser. In fact, the day of her February phone interview, she'd addressed a broken doorknob that had temporarily trapped a teacher and students in their classroom and also kept a wary eye on a police standoff happening at the end of the block. The previous week, she'd had to reach out to the community for help getting access to the center's snow blower, which was, ironically, stuck in a shed completely blocked by mounds of snow.

"There's never a dull moment here," Collins said with a chuckle. "There's always something to be done, and more often than not, I'm the one who fills the gaps."

That's not say there isn't a staff at the relief nursery, which has existed since 2009 but moved into a brand new building last October. There are classroom assistants, interventionists, other staff members and many trained volunteers who work to support the nursery's mission. Collins says she's happy to lend a hand on the small tasks so the rest of the staff can focus all their time on working effectively with the children.

"Research shows that children who face adverse conditions in their younger years are more likely to have problems in adulthood," Collins said. "That's why we want to get them in this window (18 months to 5 years). It's the least expensive and most effective time to have intervention. It's also the most fun."

Paul Bentz '08 was—and still is—on that board. He's another Ontario native who got his degree from WOU but ultimately returned home to work. He said hiring Collins to head the TVCRN was an easy decision then, and the nursery is reaping the benefits every day years later.

"I've always said that your career path is a journey, so I'm glad I majored in interdisciplinary studies because it gave me a broader education. You never know who you're going to work for."

*Kathie Collins '87*

Social services wasn't Collins' area of study when she attended Western Oregon State College in the 1980s. She was an interdisciplinary studies major with a focus on public relations and political science, and her first job after college was at the Argus Observer newspaper in Ontario, her hometown. After about five years, she took a position as the public information officer with the local school district. Seven years and a master's degree later, she opened a public relations consulting business. The relief nursery was one of her clients. In 2010, the nursery's board hired her as its first executive director.

*Collins and Bentz celebrated the opening last fall of the relief nursery's new building. The next project will be a playground for the families it serves.*





# m's career journey



*Collins reads to a child at the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery. She often helps out as a classroom assistant.*

"There was no question Kathie was perfect for the job of executive director," Bentz said of the hiring decision seven years ago. "And now, she still amazes me. We just finished a big capital campaign, and she just is so good at it. She's methodical about who to approach. People just want to work with her, and she's so excited to be helping kids."

Relationship-builder is one of Collins' biggest hats at the relief

nursery. That capital campaign raised \$1.3 million.

"It's a lesson I learned in public relations, actually," Collins said. "The world is about relationships. These relationships helped us build and sustain this nursery. And they've helped me all along the way."

The path Collins took to reach her current position may have been winding, but she never felt unequipped to tackle whatever came

next. Her time at WOU helped create a toolbox of skills.

"I've always said that your career path is a journey," she said. "So I'm glad I majored in interdisciplinary studies because it gave me a broader education. You never know who you're going to work for. I also took speech and debate while I was at WOSC. That gave me public

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“There was no question Kathie was perfect for the job of executive director...she still amazes me. We just finished a big capital campaign, and she just is so good at it.”

*Paul Bentz '08*

speaking skills I have used thousands of times. My early career as an editor makes it easier for me to write grant applications.”

Unprompted, Bentz said the same thing about the knowledge he gained at WOU. He earned a degree in business but had a minor in public policy and administration.

“I use my minor every single day,” Bentz said. “I understand how the (government) process works because my professors took me all the way through it in detail.”

Bentz oversaw building operations for the recently completed TVCRN building. He investigated zoning, permits and many other aspects of the construction process that required interaction with local government agencies.

“Because of those classes, I was able to align what I did with what I thought (city government offices) were going to want and need,” he said. “It made it a lot easier because I understood where they were coming from and what their goals were.”

Collins and Bentz graduated from the university about 20 years apart, but they both returned to their hometown prepared to give back to the community. The next project in the works for TVCRN is installing an outdoor playground behind



*Kathie Collins '87 and Paul Bentz '08 stand near a climbing wall at the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery. The duo worked closely on many aspects of the new building's creation.*

the building. In the meantime, Collins remains committed to the center's core mission: helping kids, helping families and helping the community.

“Everyone deserves a shot at having a great human experience,” she said.



*Learn more about WOU's interdisciplinary studies program at: [wou.edu/ids](http://wou.edu/ids).*

*Find details about the public policy and administration program at: [wou.edu/publicpolicy](http://wou.edu/publicpolicy).*

# Volunteers

AFTER A FALL term spent organizing, scouting and preparing, the Child Development Center (CDC) on Jan. 18 started welcoming volunteers with Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) for weekly visits to Western Oregon University. The seven SMART volunteers read one on one with children for an hour each Wednesday morning, providing personal attention and sharing their enthusiasm for books.

SMART is a statewide, volunteer-based literacy program that provides reading support and free books for children to take home and share with their families.





# share love of books with children

CDC teachers already provide reading instruction to children at the center, but the one-on-one, non-teacher aspect of SMART volunteers takes it to another level, said Ingrid Amerson, director of Classroom/Family Engagement and SMART coordinator at CDC.

“The reader and the child can connect,” Amerson said. “The bond is going to be great between the two.”

SMART volunteers read with one child for about 15 minutes, then switch to another, Amerson said. The age of participating children in the SMART program ranges from pre-kindergarten

through third grade. The end goal is to establish a love of reading and an understanding about the importance of books in the lives of young participants.

“Having members of the community come in makes it more of an event,” said Carey Gilbert, co-director of CDC. “It really underscores the importance of print and reading, both for the kids and their families.”



Community members and students read to children once per week at the Child Development Center. The program is administered by Start Making a Reader Today (SMART).



To learn more about the CDC program, visit [triwou.org/centers/cdc](http://triwou.org/centers/cdc). Those interested in becoming SMART volunteers may apply online at [GetSmartOregon.org](http://GetSmartOregon.org).

TOGETHER WE **ENGAGE**



# University celebrates 20 years as WOU

**O**N APRIL 1, 1997, then-Gov. John Kitzhaber signed HB 2634, which instantaneously turned Western Oregon State College into Western Oregon University.

The school had been WOSC for 16 years, but with the stroke of a pen, it transformed—as did Eastern Oregon State College and Southern Oregon State College—into an institute showcasing its “university” status. The bill was sponsored by then-Rep. Lane Shetterly at the suggestion of WOSC President Betty Youngblood.

“One minute you had all kinds of things that said WOSC, and it seemed like the next minute, it was completely wiped out,” she recalled. “You couldn’t find anything that wasn’t WOU.”

There was one object, however, that didn’t seem to get the memo. It still makes Larson laugh.

“The piece of paper I got after we graduated had ‘Western Oregon University’ at the top,” she said. “But the diploma covers they



*Malissa Larson '97 shows her WOU degree housed in a WOSC cover, along with her WOSC mug.*

**“One minute you had all kinds of things that said WOSC, and it seemed like the next minute...[y]ou couldn’t find anything that wasn’t WOU.”**

## *Malissa Larson '97*

“The university designation accurately recognizes Western as the kind of institution we are today,” said Youngblood on the day of the signing 20 years ago. “National classifications, standards and criteria clearly define Western as a ‘comprehensive university.’ Western’s size, academic programs and mission, as well as the quality of our faculty, staff and students, justify this designation.”

Although some might have expected the school to wait until fall term to make the official switch, university officials made a quick transition, right at the beginning of spring term.

Current Director of Disability Services Malissa Larson graduated in June 1997, having entered the academic year as a student at Western Oregon State College and ending it with a degree from Western Oregon University. She remembers the name change happening in a blur.

handed out at Commencement still said Western Oregon State College on the front. They didn’t really explain why. We just figured they were too ... frugal ... to get new ones.”

A “West Words” newsletter article that ran April 2, 1997, explained the conundrum thusly: “Those students who will graduate in upcoming commencement ceremonies at McArthur Field on June 14 will receive diplomas that read ‘Western Oregon University.’ But, in order to use existing supplies, the jackets that contain the diplomas will still read ‘Western Oregon State College.’ ”

Shetterly '77 is now on the Board of Trustees at Western Oregon University. He’s no stranger to name changes at the university. When

he graduated, the school was Oregon College of Education. “I was proud to be able to sponsor the bill that made Western a university,” Shetterly said. “And now, with the state universities having gained their new status as independent universities, it’s a great pleasure to be able to serve on the board. I got a lot from my time at OCE, and I’m happy to be able to give back to Western.”



*Did you graduate in the spring of 1997? We’d like to hear your memories! Contact us at [wou.edu/alumni](http://wou.edu/alumni) and while you’re there, fill out our new alumni story form.*





## National award winner tabbed as Commencement keynote speaker

**W**OU ALUMNUS MATT UTTERBACK '89 won the National Superintendent of the Year Award in March from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He also has been selected as the keynote speaker at WOU's Commencement on June 17.

Utterback has been superintendent at North Clackamas School District since 2012, and during that time the district has made major gains in graduation rates and test scores, particularly for low-income, minority and special education students.

Utterback earned high marks from the AASA for leading his district to major progress despite budget restrictions, school closures and the lackluster test scores he inherited. "This award recognizes leadership at the highest level," said



Matt Utterback '89; photo courtesy of Lifetouch.

Mark Girod, dean of the College of Education.

While at Western Oregon State College, as it was known at the time, Utterback majored in

education and earned a teaching certificate in social studies and integrated science. WOSC was where he started dating his future wife, Nancy, who also is an '89 alum. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in education with a language arts certificate and has been a teacher in the North Clackamas district for many years.



## Kingsellas seek opportunities to support community in diverse way

**R**YAN KINGSELLA '16 AND Allison Kingsella '17 didn't wait until after graduating from WOU to make their mark on the local community. The couple, who married in 2015, has led the charge to work with area businesses, law enforcement agencies and residents.

Ryan took over as executive director of the Monmouth and Independence Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center (MICC) in January. Though his company, Genesis Marketing, was just a year old, chamber businesses elected him to lead the group. Ryan, who studied early childhood education, touts his unique blend of talents as the reason he was ideal for the post.



Ryan '16 and Allison Kingsella '17 revisit Caffè Allegro in the Werner University Center. They met there when he worked as a barista on campus.

"It just happened that the job requirements matched the skills I've gained over the years," he said. His background includes event promotion and website development.

Meanwhile, Allison has made her own niche in the community. She worked with local police departments to create a placard for deaf and hard-of-hearing drivers. Modeled after similar programs in Cincinnati and Washington, D.C., the cards guide both officers and drivers through positive communication practices in the event that the driver is pulled over. The card is available at the Monmouth, Independence and Dallas police stations as well as the MICC.

"I think it's pretty fantastic," said Allison Kingsella, an ASL minor. "Seeing it take hold in our community is exciting. And humbling, really."



## Alumnus Greg Garcia earns peer accolades

**G**REG GARCIA '12, '14 received the "Franklin Strong" award last fall at Franklin High School in Portland. Garcia is a social studies teacher at the school, and he was nominated by colleagues



Garcia

for making a special effort to motivate his students toward academic success. Franklin Vice Principal Emily Mather said "We congratulate Greg

and so appreciate his work for our school community."

"Every student is guaranteed food in my classroom courtesy of donations I've secured from local businesses," he explained. "Getting this award means that my peers appreciate my efforts as well as the students. It reminds me that my efforts go beyond the four walls of my classroom. I have a raffle system where good grades and regular attendance earns tickets for clothes and other trinkets donated from national companies. After tests, the 'big raffle' includes Blazers tickets, OMSI passes and coupons for free movies. If I can keep kids in school, I've done my job. Satisfying these needs in society is one of the biggest reasons I became a teacher."

At WOU, Garcia earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history and credits the "excellent and charismatic" faculty with making him the teacher he is today.

## We'd love to hear from you!

Please send us your class notes (be sure to include your grad year). We'd be honored to share them! While you're there, subscribe to **Pawprints**, the WOU alumni newsletter, by sending your email to [alumni@wou.edu](mailto:alumni@wou.edu).

## Class notes

**Pat Edmundson '58**, and her husband, John, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

**Jeanne Bridges '62** reached 50 years at Cummings Elementary School as both a teacher and volunteer.

**Dwaine Kronser '78, '82** recently retired from his role as the deputy chief information officer for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center after 32 years of federal service. He now works for InuTeq, LLC.

**Wyatt Armstrong '81** retired from law enforcement in August 2016 after 33 years as a deputy sheriff with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in Tacoma.

**Brian J. Boquist '85** was elected as senator into the Oregon State Senate District 12.

Former football defensive back **Sean McNabb '89** was awarded the Cowapa League co-Coach of the Year Award for his work at Scappoose High School.

**Terry Evers '90, '00**, a science teacher at Ewing Young Elementary, was selected as one of two elementary finalists in Oregon for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

**David Valenzuela '93** is now the Three Rivers School District permanent superintendent.

Former track athlete **Joseph Dias '96**, oversees the Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Car Sales Chicago operation.

**Steve Rosling '96** has been elected as president of the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors Master's Circle.

**Rochelle Farris '98** has been hired as an assistant at McNary High School's new college and career center.

**Nicole Hancock '98** received the 2017 Kate Feltham Award, recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary efforts to promote equal rights and opportunities for women and minorities within the legal profession and legal justice system in Idaho.

Former WOU running back and linebacker, **David Morrill '98**, was recently inducted to the Scappoose Boosters Hall of Fame.

**Dale Primmer '98** was sworn into the Pendleton City Council as city councilor.

KGW reporter **Katherine Cook '02** was named one of Portland's Most Memorable Media Stars of all time in a publication by *The Oregonian*.

**Jennie Rummell '06** won a city council position in Dallas.

**Eryn Latt '09** has joined the Sherwood School District as an associate director of special programs.

**Thomas Armstrong '10** recently became the new associate dean of athletics at Grossmont College in El Cajon, Calif.

Carleton College in Minnesota has just hired **Robert Barret '10** as the full-time strength and conditioning coach for the Knights' 20 varsity athletic programs.

Joining the Woodburn Police Department, **Ezequiel Vasquez '12** was sworn in on February 27.

Army Cpl. **Bryce Wolford '13** was presented with the Spirit of Service award at the American Legion National Convention in Cincinnati. The award recognizes active-duty military members who give back to their communities.

**HOME COMING**

**SAVE THE DATE!** **NOVEMBER 4**



## *In remembrance*

### 1940s

Irene M. Langston

### 1950s

Robert Neal Abrahamson  
Charlotte Rae Cammack  
Ervin Carl Garrison  
Calvin Charles Peterson

### 1960s

Shirley Mae Klassen  
Stephen Wayne Tow  
Robert Dale Lady  
Elizabeth "Betty" Swick  
Wanda M. Wendt  
Alyce Yoshikai

### 1970s

William H. "Bill" Deist  
Charlotte Asplund  
Palmateer  
Sally Jo Nims

### 2000s

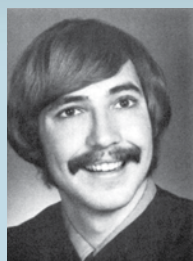
Talana Christine Lyda  
Fairfax  
Carol Morley

### 2010s

Alma Pacheco

### Friends of WOU

Elva Buhler Shorack  
Ronald David Templeman



*Smith*

### Larry Smith '73

Larry Smith '73 passed away March 19 at the age of 70. Smith earned his bachelor's degree from Oregon College of Education and played defensive end on the OCE football team. Smith reportedly spoke fondly of OCE and credited his time there with making a positive impact on his life.

"He was very loyal to the football program and the university," said Arne Ferguson, current WOU football coach. "He was the founder of the Gus Langley Endowment, and he sometimes came to the (athletic) auction and scholarship dinner. It was about connecting with the players and coaches."

Smith and his wife, Diane, were benefactor-level donors (\$100,000+) to WOU and created the Gus Langley Endowment in 1996. Smith also was involved with the current Gale Davis Athletic Fund Scholarship. He has been nominated for induction into the WOU Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife, their daughters Tana (Kevin) Thomson, Amy (Jeff) Campbell and Haley (Mark) Cooper and six grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held March 24 in Salem.

## *Alma's Project*

Last December, we unexpectedly lost Alma Pacheco, our student body president. Before her death, Alma had begun an ambitious project: the creation of a website listing financial, academic and psychological support resources for undocumented students in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Thanks to the extensive efforts of participants from WOU communications students and the Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference, the website has been completed. It was unveiled April 17 and can be found at [wou.edu/DACA](http://wou.edu/DACA).

Also in Alma's honor, a Prairie Fire Crabapple tree will be planted near the Pacific Room entrance of the Werner University Center. A plaque commemorating her contributions to campus will be placed near the tree.



*Pacheco*

*Below is an example of the Prairie Fire Crabapple tree that will be planted in Pacheco's memory.*



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#### **Please write**

We love comments. Comments may be edited for length (300 words or fewer preferred), grammar, clarity, style, and relevance to university issues and topics discussed in the magazine. Email your letter to: [magazine@wou.edu](mailto:magazine@wou.edu), or send by post to *The Western Edge*, Lieuallen Administration 302, 345 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth, OR 97361.

[wou.edu/westernedge](http://wou.edu/westernedge)

### **The Western Edge • Spring 2017**

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TOGETHER WE **SUCCEED**





Western Oregon  
UNIVERSITY

Western Edge  
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345 Monmouth Ave. N.  
Monmouth, OR 97361

# AUGUST 21 • Monmouth & Independence eclipse2017



Western Oregon  
UNIVERSITY

At 10:16:59 a.m. on Aug. 21, Monmouth will be in the path of totality for the solar eclipse. We expect thousands of alumni, students, faculty/staff and community members to join us in donning funny-looking glasses and gazing skyward during the once-in-a-lifetime event.

WOU has opened its residence halls, fields and parking lots to alumni lodgers and campers. Join our on-campus celebration and share the feeling of camaraderie while enjoying an optimal viewing location. You can also enjoy:

- Five-day music, food, beer and wine festival in Independence
- Eclipse education activities hosted by Western Oregon University
- Dark Side of the Moon concert Aug. 20 at the Monmouth amphitheater

Reserve your campsite or lodging at  
[wou.edu/eclipse](http://wou.edu/eclipse).

